

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05284 171030Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----064406 171032Z /13

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5650
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T CAIRO 05284

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, PEPR, ET, SO, SA, UK, FR
SUBJECT: HORN OF AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 41087, (B) STATE 40765 (NOTAL),
- (C) CAIRO 5132 (NOTAL)

1. HAD OPPORTUNITY LAST EVENING AT IRANIAN AMBASSADOR'S
FAREWELL DINNER TO DISCUSS REFERENCE SUBJECT WITH ACTING
FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI. TOLD HIM THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING
OBTAIN FROM PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE AN INDICATION OF
WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE TO WITHDRAW SOMALI FORCES FROM
OGADEN, WHICH WE CONSIDER KEY TO SUCCESS OF ANY EFFORTS
TO SECURE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT THROUGH OAU, UN,

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COMBINATION OF THESE TWO OR OTHERWISE. EMPHASIZED THAT
WE RECOGNIZE SOMALIS WILL AT MINIMUM WISH TO CONDITION
WITHDRAWAL ON GUARANTEES AGAINST REPRISALS AGAINST OGADENI
INHABITANTS AND ON SOME KIND OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR
INHABITANTS OF OGADEN AREA. I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOE,
WITH ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SIAD BARRE, WILL BE
WILLING TO COOPERATE IN EFFORT PERSUADE SOMALI PRESIDENT

TO ISSUE A STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FORCES FROM OGADEN AS PART OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

2. GHALI LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, NOTING HE HAS FOR PAST WEEK OR MORE BEEN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ENGAGED IN HORN OF AFRICA AFFAIRS. HE SAID OUR POSITION IS "VERY SIMILAR " TO WHAT HE HAS BEEN ESPOUSING FOR PAST "EIGHT DAYS" OR SO. HE HAS ARGUED IN THE CABINET THAT GOE POLICY OF UNLIMITED SUPPORT FOR SIAD BARRE IS SELF-DEFEATING AND THAT GOE SHOULD SEEK TO PERSUADE SIAD TO WITHDRAW FROM OGADEN IF THERE IS TO BE ANY KIND OF A SETTLEMENT IN HORN OF AFRICA. IN ABSENCE SADAT AND FONMIN KAMEL, PRIMIN HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO INFORM SOMALI AMBASSADOR, "ON HIS OWN," OF THE NEED FOR SOMALIA TO "RE-ORIENT" ITS POLICY IN OGADEN AREA WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME TO DO SO. GHALI SAID HE HAS BEEN TAKING THIS LINE WITH SOMALI AMBASSADOR FOR PAST WEEK OR SO.

3. ASKED IF GOE HAS DIRECTLY ASKED SIAD BARRE TO WITHDRAW HIS TROOPS FROM OGADEN, GHALI SAID HE HAD NOT GONE THAT FAR. GIVEN SIAD'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH SADAT, ANY SUCH DIRECT REQUEST WOULD BE BADLY RECEIVED AND WOULD IN ANY CASE HAVE TO BE AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT. AT THE MOMENT, GHALI NOTED, GOE IS ENGAGED IN AN EFFORT TO BUCK UP A FALTERING SIAD BY SENDING ADDITIONAL MILITARY SUPPLIES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT GOE'S PURPOSE IN DOING SO IS NOT TO
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PROLONG THE FIGHTING, BUT TO TRY TO INSTILL SOME SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN SIAD THAT HE IS NOT BEING ABANDONED BY HIS FRIENDS. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, GHALI AGREED THAT A SOMALI STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE TO WITHDRAW FROM OGADEN IS A SINE QUA NON TO ANY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. HE ALSO FAVORED ANY UNSC ACTION WHICH MIGHT GIVE OAU ACTION A BOOST. HE DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT GOE WILL WISH DIRECTLY TO ASK SIAD TO ISSUE A STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FROM OGADEN, ALTHOUGH HE REITERATED THAT HIS PERSISTENT COMMENTS TO SOMALI AMBASSADOR DURING PAST WEEK SHOULD HAVE LEFT LATTER IN NO DOUBT THAT GOE BELIEVES SIAD SHOULD SEEK SOME FACE-SAVING WAY TO GET OUT OF OGADEN. GHALI SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS ALONG THOSE LINES.

4. I AM SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH SADAT TOMORROW AND WILL ALSO RAISE MATTER WITH HIM AT THAT TIME. EILTS

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NNN

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